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Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, reviews encouraging developments in Cambodia as well as negative ones that are cause for concern; asks his Special Representative to proceed immediately with preparations for Presidential election.

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General to submit, as soon as possible, report on replies from regional arrangements and organizations with regard to their participation in sessions and the work of the General Assembly as observers.

+ In Presidential statement last night, Security Council calls once again on all parties in former Yugoslavia to cease immediately military action in United Nations Protected Areas; demands withdrawal of Croatian armed forces from those areas.

+ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for further six months, until 31 July 1993.

+ Secretary-General calls Israel's expulsion of some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon "illegal under international law and Security Council resolutions".

+ Greece objects to application of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for United Nations membership under name of "Republic of Macedonia", arguing it could lead to further destabilization of southern Balkans.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs reviews last six weeks of relief efforts in Somalia since arrival of Unified Task Force in that country.

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An increase in violations of the cease-fire in Cambodia and a number of attacks on personnel with the United Nations Transitional Authority in that country (UNTAC) have "seriously hampered UNTAC's efforts to create and

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maintain the neutral political environment needed for the holding of free and fair elections", according Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, dated 25 January, he said the refusal by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) to participate in the second phase of the cease-fire has made it impossible for UNTAC to carry out the cantonment, disarmament and demobilization of the factions' armed forces.

However, on the positive side, the report continued, the voter registration "has been a remarkable success", indicating that the overwhelming majority of the Cambodian people support the peace process. Moreover, the repatriation process has been a source for encouragement with two thirds of the 360,000 Cambodian refugees and displaced persons now safely returned to their country, the Secretary-General writes. UNTAC would therefore continue to prepare for the holding of free and fair elections by May 1993, as scheduled, in all areas of Cambodia to which it has access as at 31 January.

The Secretary-General wrote that he had asked his Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, to proceed immediately with thelnecessary technical preparations for the presidential elections. While emphasizing the importance of holding presidential elections, as a step towards planned elections for a constituent assembly and national reconciliation, reported that Prince Sihanouk had confirmed his intention to participate in those elections.

Special Representative Akashi and Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations Marrack Goulding are currently attending a meeting in Beijing of the Supreme National Council for Cambodia to discuss the current situation in that country.

In a separate development, the spokesman for UNTAC reported today that an incident had taken place in Phum Srit in north-west Cambodia yesterday during which a group of assailants had killed 8 people and injured 12.

According to a preliminary report by the UNTAC civilian police, the attackers reportedly opened fire on a crowd numbering some 1,500 people who were taking part in the celebrations of the festival "Meakha Bochea". One eyewitness described two of the attackers wearing the uniforms of the National Aliance for a Democratic Kampuchea (NADK). However, cautioned UNTAC, it was well known that uniforms of all factions' police and military forces were available to people not affiliated with the uniform.
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The Security Council has asked the Secretary-General to submit, as soon as possible and preferably by the end of April 1993, a report on replies received from the regional arrangements and organizations to an invitation for their participation in sessions and the work of the General Assembly as observers. The request was contained in a statement read out by Council

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President Yoshio Hatano (Japan) this afternoon, at a meeting of the Security Council concerning the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace".

In the statement, the Council expressed support for the Secretary-General's intention, as expressed in his report, to ask regional arrangements and organizations that have not yet sought observer status at the United Nations to do so. It invited the States which are members of regional arrangements and organizations to play a constructive role on ways and means to improve coordination with the United Nations.

The statement also noted the importance of the understanding reached at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to consider that body a regional arrangement.

The statement said the Council attached great importance to the role of regional arrangements and organizations, and recognized the need to coordinate their efforts with those of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council will continue its consideration of the Secretary-General's report.

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The Security Council last night once again called on all parties in the former Yugoslavia to cease immediately military action within or adjacent to United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA) and demanded that Croatia withdraw its armed forces from those areas.

In a statement read out by its President Yoshio Hatano (Japan), the Council reiterated that it will hold the political and military leaders involved in the conflict responsible and accountable for the safety of the United Nations peace-keeping personnel in the area. It said the Council was deeply concerned to learn from the Secretary-General that the offensive by the Croatian armed forces continued unabated in flagrant violation of resolution 802 (1993) of 25 January at a crucial time in the peace process.

The Council also stated its intention to remain actively seized of the matter, with a view to considering what further steps might be necessary to ensure that its demands were met.

The Council's action was prompted by a statement by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali earlier yesterday during consultations of the Council, in which he said the ongoing conflict in Croatia would have "serious implications" for the Council's consideration of the renewal of the mandate of UNPROFOR in that area, which is due to expire on 20 February.

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The Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further six months period, until 31 July 1993.

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The Council took that unanimous decision today by adopting a note by Council President Yoshio Hatano (Japan), in which the Council stressed the urgent need for the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) in all its aspects.

According to the statement, Council members reiterated their full support for the Taif Agreement and for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country, while successfully carrying out the reconstruction process. The Council also commended the Lebanese Government for its successful efforts to extend its authority in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL. However, it expressed concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon, regretted the loss of civilian life and urged all parties to exercise restraint.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at its meeting yesterday that Israel's decision in mid-December to expel some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon was "illegal under international law and Security Council resolutions". He cited the Council's demand of 18 December, 1992, "that Israel, the Occupying Power, ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported".

Broad agreement existed within the international community that the settlement of the Palestinian question should be based on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June 1967, the Secretary-General said. Also included should be the recognition of and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in the region, including their right to live in peace within secure and recognized borders; lastly, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

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Greece has objected to the application of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for admission to United Nations membership under the denomination of "the Republic of Macedonia", arguing that the move would lead to a further destabilization of the southern Balkans, both in a short-and long-term perspective.

In a Memorandum transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 25 January, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, Michael Papaconstantinou, said the exclusive use of the Macedonian name in the republic's official denomination would be a stimulus for expansionist claims not only by present nationalist activites in Skopje but by future generations as well.

The Memorandum noted that the authorities in Skopje had adopted the name of a wider geographical region extending over four neighbouring countries, with only 38.5 percent of the whole region commonly known as Macedonia to be

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found in the former Yugoslav republic. About 51 percent of the Macedonian geographical region is in Greece, with a population of 2.5 million people, while the remaining 10 percent are in other neighbouring states.

The Greek Foreign Minister pointed out that it was in the competence of the Security Council not only to resolve disputes but also to take necessary actions to prevent them as well. "This is a clear case where preventive diplomacy is urgently needed", he said.
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Nearly 40,000 tonnes of food supplies including 8,000 tonnes of medicines and seeds have been delivered by organizations of the United Nations system and other relief agencies during the last six weeks in Somalia, following the arrival of the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) to that country.

A report issued by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs today said that in spite of difficulties faced by the relief agencies in Somalia, a major effort was made to ensure the involvement of the Somalis themselves in planning programmes from relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Force would escort relief convoys from the port to the sites and remain present during the distribution to deter would-be looters.

The report further said that, as a further step, a United Nations Conference on Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia would be held in Addis Ababa in March 1993 to review the Relief and Rehabilitation Programme and receive pledges from donors.

With the launching of the 100-day Programme of Action following the Geneva Conference on Somalia in October 1992, the report added, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had focused on improving access to food supplies, supplementary feeding for the vulnerable and "at-risk" population and the provision of other essential services. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was also assisting the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to extend their activities throughout Somalia.

In the meantime, the report said, a United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Programme for 1993 was in the process of being finalized.

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